

**Oyster Task Force Meeting  
Tuesday, March 29, 2016, 1:00pm  
The Louisiana Room  
2000 Quail Dr. Baton Rouge**

**Voting Members Present:**

Dan Coulon  
Byron Encalade  
Jakov Jurisic  
Mitch Jurisich  
Brad Robin  
Brandt LaFrance  
Al Sunseri  
John Tesvich  
Sam Slavich  
Peter Vujnovich  
Willie Daisy  
Wilbert Collins

**Voting Members Absent:**

Shane Bagala  
Leo Dyson

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

Mark Schexnayder  
Gordon Leblanc in for Lance Broussard  
Captain Chad Hebert  
Karl Morgan

Al Sunseri made a motion to accept the March 2, 2016 meeting minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wilbert Collins. Motion carries.

Peter Vujnovich made a motion to amend the agenda and add item under 'New Business'- D. Summary of Oyster Crop Insurance, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Coulon. Motion carries.

Motion to adopt the amended March 29, 2016 agenda by Jakov Jurisic, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Coulon. Motion carries.

Treasury Report- Fund Balance: 348,495, Encumbrances: 40,954, Budget Balance: 220,740

February oyster tag sales 162,730

Motion to accept the Treasury Report by Jakov Jurisic 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sam Slavich. Motion carries.

**Public/ Private Oyster Seed Grounds:**

No report

**Enforcement:**

Captain Chad Hebert addressed the Task Force with the enforcement report: 4 cases of oysters taken from a polluted area, 7 unlawfully taken oysters from a private lease, 2 possession of untagged oysters, 3 sanitary code violations, 10 sacks of oysters seized and returned to the water

**Legislative Committee:**

No report

**Research Committee:**

Dr. Earl Melancon was appointed as the new chair of the research committee

**Marketing:**

Jakov Jurisic suggested that getting OTF pins made to wear to meetings and other TF gatherings to be distinguished

Allison West stated that she would look into pricing, options, and designs for pins by the next meeting

**Health:**

Gordon Leblanc addressed the TF with the Health Report:

Lake Borgne is opening- 24 applications will be taken, Calcasieu Lake is open, but with the rain it may close.

The Gulf South and South Atlantic States Shellfish Conference will be on June 7-9 at the Hilton Riverwalk

Brad Robin made a motion to raise the funding cap from \$6500 to \$10,000 budget for the Gulf and South Atlantic States Shellfish Conference, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jakov Jurisic.

Motion carries.

Gordon Leblanc stated that he would provide the TF with a head count and agenda for the event

Sam Slavich suggested requesting a report from the fishermen who are participating in the relay on the success and mortality rates

**Sustainability:**

No report

**Professionalism:**

No report

**Aquaculture:**

No report

**OLMLC:**

No report and can be removed from the committee list

**Legislative Update:**

Cole Garrett provided the TF with a legislative update on the proposed OTF Bills

House Bill 306- Rep. Jerome Zeringue: Public Oyster Seed Ground Development Account- raised lease fees and dedicated them to this account.

House Bill 290- Rep. Jerry Gisclair: Changed the name dredge to scraper throughout Title 56, also establishes limits and dimensions for scrapers only for the purposes of harvesting on the public seed grounds

House Bill 303: Requires successful completion of an oyster harvester education program prior to applying for the Oyster Harvester License. Educational training will be required every 3 years for oyster harvesters.

Amendment to the House Bill 636 that renews the Oyster Seed Ground Vessel Permit

Mitch Jurisich suggested reminding the Legislature that it was the wishes of the TF and OLMLC to remain out of the dual claims issue and to not let that affect the lifting of the moratorium

Brad Robin addressed the TF on the VMS Cargo Vessel Requirement

John Tesvich recommended sending the VMS cargo vessel requirement issue to the Enforcement Committee

**Taste of the Senate Event:**

Mitch Jurisich presented the Taste of the Senate event details- Monday, April 11 from 6-9pm at the Capitol Park Museum

**Crop Insurance Program Summary:**

Rob Certa provided a recap of the crop insurance program

Brandt LaFrance made a motion to ask WLF to work with Rob Certa to do a mail out to announce the April 30 deadline for anyone who would like to purchase crop insurance and the TF would cover mailing costs 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Sunseri. Motion carries.

Crop Insurance was sent to the Professionalism Committee for further discussion throughout the next year and moving to a farm level based crop insurance program

Next meeting set for Tuesday, May 17, 2016 for 1pm in New Orleans

Motion to adjourn by Wilbert Collins, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Sunseri. Motion carries.